

## **MINUTES**

### **MONTANA SENATE 60th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION**

#### **COMMITTEE ON FINANCE AND CLAIMS**

**Call to Order:** By **CHAIRMAN TRUDI SCHMIDT**, on March 23, 2007 at 8:00 A.M., in Room 317-A Capitol.

#### **ROLL CALL**

**Members Present:**

Sen. Trudi Schmidt, Chairman (D)  
Sen. Keith Bales (R)  
Sen. Gregory D. Barkus (R)  
Sen. John Brueggeman (R)  
Sen. John Cobb (R)  
Sen. Mike Cooney (D)  
Sen. Steven Gallus (D)  
Sen. Ken (Kim) Hansen (D)  
Sen. Bob Hawks (D)  
Sen. Rick Laible (R)  
Sen. Lane L. Larson (D)  
Sen. Dave Lewis (R)  
Sen. Greg Lind (D)  
Sen. Corey Stapleton (R)  
Sen. Bill Tash (R)  
Sen. Mitch Tropila (D)  
Sen. David E. Wanzenried (D)  
Sen. Dan Weinberg (D)  
Sen. Carol Williams (D)

**Members Excused:** None.

**Members Absent:** None.

**Staff Present:** Prudence Gildroy, Committee Secretary  
Taryn Purdy, Legislative Branch

**Audio Committees:** These minutes are in outline form only. They provide a list of participants and a record of official action taken by the committee. The link to the audio recording of the meeting is available on the Legislative Branch website.

**Committee Business Summary:**

Hearing & Date Posted: HB 805, 3/20/2007; HB 806,  
3/20/2007; HB 807, 3/20/2007; HB  
809, 3/20/2007

Executive Action: None.

00:00:00

00:00:12 Sen. Schmidt

00:05:30 Clayton Schenck, Legislative Fiscal Analyst

**EXHIBIT(fcs62a01)**

00:16:07 Sen. Schmidt

00:16:14 Sen. Stapleton to Clayton Schenck

00:19:23 Sen. Stapleton to Sen. Schmidt

00:20:07 Sen. Williams to Clayton Schenck

00:20:46 Sen. Schmidt

00:21:41 Clayton Schenck

**EXHIBIT(fcs62a02)**

00:25:49 Sen. Stapleton to Clayton Schenck

00:26:35 Sen. Cooney to Sen. Schmidt

00:27:13 Sen. Stapleton

00:27:57 Sen. Cooney

00:29:19 Sen. Stapleton

00:29:29 Sen. Schmidt

00:29:39 Sen. Cooney

00:30:23 Sen. Stapleton

00:30:30 Sen. Schmidt

00:30:51 Sen. Cooney

00:31:26 Sen. Schmidt to Greg Petesch, Legislative Counsel

**HEARING ON HB 805**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

00:33:33 **REP. RICK RIPLEY (R), HD 17**, opened the hearing on **HB 805**, Biennial funding for certain natural resource agencies.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

00:41:38 Gary Marbut, Montana Shooting Sports Association

**Opponents' Testimony:**

00:43:34 David Ewer, Director, Office of Budget and Program Planning

01:07:37 Jim Morton, Human Resources Councils of Montana

01:10:30 Mike Pochervina, Butte

**Informational Testimony:**

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

01:11:29 Sen. Cooney to Rep. Ripley

01:14:38 Sen. Cobb to Rep. Ripley

01:18:42 Sen. Lewis to Director David Ewer

01:29:21 Sen. Williams to Rep. Ripley

01:32:35 Sen. Schmidt to Mary Sexton, Director, Department of Natural Resources

01:33:33 Sen. Bales to Rep. Ripley

01:35:08 Sen. Cobb

01:37:36 Sen. Hawks to Director Tony Preite, Department of Commerce

01:39:17 Sen. Cobb to Rep. Ripley

01:39:48 Sen. Weinberg to Director Mary Sexton

01:42:48 Sen. Cooney to Rep. Ripley

01:43:16 Sen. Hawks to Director Richard Opper, Department of  
Environmental Quality

01:46:30 Sen. Cobb to Director Opper

01:52:40 Sen. Bales to Director Sexton

**Closing by Sponsor:**

01:54:09 Rep. Ripley

01:58:50 Sen. Schmidt

01:59:22 Recess

02:12:28 Reconvene

**HEARING ON HB 806**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

02:14:18 **REP. BILL BECK (R), HD 6**, opened the hearing on **HB 806**,  
Biennial funding for justice, corrections, labor,  
military affairs, and PSC.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

02:21:56 Don Hargrove, Montana Meth Project

02:22:59 Roger Hagen, Montana National Guard

02:24:30 Cory Swanson, Corrections Corporation of America

**Opponents' Testimony:**

02:27:42 David Ewer, Budget Director, Office of Budget and  
Program Planning

02:33:35 Eric Burke, MEA-MFT

02:35:50 Mike Ferriter, Director, Department of Corrections

**Informational Testimony:**

02:38:47 Larry Fasbender, Deputy Director, Department of Justice

**EXHIBIT(fcs62a03)**

02:43:07 Greg Jergeson, Chairman, Montana Public Service  
Commission

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

02:46:10 Sen. Cobb to Larry Fasbender

02:47:40 Sen. Williams to Rep. Beck

02:51:22 Sen. Gallus to Rep. Beck

02:55:15 Sen. Bales to Director David Ewer

02:57:47 Sen. Bales to Director Mike Ferriter

03:07:48 Sen. Laible to Director Mike Ferriter

03:19:20 Sen. Gallus to Rep. Beck

03:20:31 Pat Gervais, Legislative Services Division

03:21:24 Rep. Beck

03:22:05 Sen. Gallus to Pat Gervais

03:22:33 Sen. Gallus to Rep. Beck

03:26:22 Sen. Lind to Rep. Beck

03:28:33 Sen. Bales to Sen. Gallus

03:30:40 Sen. Cobb to Director Mike Ferriter

03:36:34 Sen. Laible to Director Mike Ferriter

**Closing by Sponsor:**

03:39:58 Rep. Beck

03:45:13 Sen. Cobb

**HEARING ON HB 807**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

03:47:29 **REP. JACK WELLS (R), HD 69**, opened the hearing on **HB 807**, Biennial funding for university system and community colleges.

**Proponents' Testimony:** None.

**Opponents' Testimony:**

03:56:55 David Ewer, Budget Director, Office of Budget and Program Planning

04:02:33 Eric Burke, MEA-MFT

04:04:54 Ed Bartlett, Montana Speech and Hearing Association

**Informational Testimony:**

04:06:11 Mick Robinson, University System

**EXHIBIT (fcs62a04)**

04:13:56 Cathy Conover, Commissioner of Higher Education Office

04:19:35 Stuart Doggett, Montana Community Colleges

04:22:04 Recess

**RECESS**

Recess: 12:22 P.M.

---

SEN. TRUDI SCHMIDT, Chairman

---

PRUDENCE GILDROY, Secretary

TS/pg

Additional Exhibits:

**EXHIBIT ([fcs62aad.pdf](#))**